52133/B TRY

Modest Observations

ON

The Present Extraordinary

FROST:

CONTAINING

I. A Brief *Description* thereof, and its Natural *Celestial Causes* inquired into.

II. An Account of the most Eminent *Frosts* that have happen'd for many Hundred years past, and what followed thereupon.

III. Philosophical *Presages* of what may be feared now to ensue, *viz. Scarcity* of Corn and Victuals, General Sicknesses, and *Pestilences* in the next, or within some very few Succeeding years; with Cautionary Preventions.

IV. The *Cries of the Poor*; and an easy Way Proposed how there may be Twenty *Thousand Pounds* a Week, at least, raised for their Relief, about *LONDON*, and all Wanting People Plentifully Provided for, During this and the like *hard* Seasons, yet no Man be a Penny the worse in his Estate.

By *T. T.*

Entred According to Order.

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OBSERVATIONS ON THE FROST &c.

THe present Wonderful *Frost*, which is the General Theme of Discourse, and under the sad Effects whereof so many Thousands of Poor Creatures Shiver and Pine, and Languish; began about the midst of *December* 1683. at first by mean and ordinary Degrees, but towards *Christmas* became very Sharp; The first Week of *January* the River of *Thames* was so Frozen, that People began to *Walk* over; On *Monday January* the 7th, on the Change of the *Moon* in *Aquary*, there were Expectations, and some Likelyhood, of a *Thaw*; but presently after it *Froze* more violently, and on the 10th and 11th in the morning, a *Coach* Plyed between the *Temple* and the *Old Barge-house*; yet towards Night the 11th (the *Moon* having been in Opposition to *Jupiter*) it *Thaw'd* a little; and the 12 and 13th was fine Gentle Weather, yet not much Thawing; the Wind continuing still at *North-East*; On the 13th it Froze gain briskly, till the 17th, when a great *Snow* fell; the 18th high, most sharp, and peircing *Winds*, and on the 23d the Air was more severely *Peircing* than ever, and more *Snow* fell; And being the first day of the *Term*, *Coaches* Ply'd at the Temple-Staires, and carried the *Lawyers* to *Westminster* on the *Ice*; and thence forwards the same Continued, and whole Streets of *Shedds* every where built on the *Thames*, Thousands Passing, Buying, Selling, Drinking, and *Revelling*, (I wish I could not say on the *Lords Day* too,) and most sorts of Trades-Shops on the Ice, (and amongst the rest a Printing-house there Erected) *Bulls* Baited, and Thousands of Spectators; all which still continues at the Writing hereof, being *January* the 29th 168$\frac{3}{4}$.

Nay, below the *Bridge*, hundreds daily pass; The River *Humber* (as I am credibly informed) where 'tis several *Miles* broad, is Frozen over, and Vast Flakes of Ice are seen Floating in the *Downes*, of Diverse *Miles* in Length, and proportionable *Breadth*.

As for *Cœleſtial Cauſes* of this unuſual Coldneſs, though undoubtedly they were not wanting (For God generally Governs *Inferiors* by *Superiors*) yet I find not that any of our *Common Pretenders* had the leaſt Apprehenſion, or gave any *Hints* thereof. Not that I wholly Explode *Aſtrology*; I believe there is ſomething in it, and that it may not be unfit for a *Wiſe* and *Modeſt* Man to Study: but our *Annual Prognoſticators* are generally Men of little *Learning*, and leſs *Philoſophy*, and (what is worſe) many times very irregular in their Lives; The God of *Purity*, who Communicates his Secrets to thoſe that fear him, Illuminates not *Debauchees*, Sordid *Flatterers*, and *Timſervers*, (whoſe whole end is to make a *Noiſe*, and Cheat People of their *money*,) with the knowledge of Supernal Myſteries; Nor can it be expected, That thoſe who neither know things paſt, by *Hiſtory*; nor take Notice of things *Preſent*, by any ſteady Judicious *Obſervation*, ſhould yet foreſee *things to come*.

Whether from any of the Late Tripple Conjunctions of the two Superior *Planets*, *Saturn* and *Jupiter*, or from ſome of the late unuſually frequent *Comets*, particulary the laſt in *Auguſt* 1682: which in 20 days with a Rapid motion, making its appearance in *Leo*, hurried through all the Signs *Virgo*, and *Libra*, and diſappear'd in *Scorpio*, A Sagacious Artiſt might not have given ſome *Items* of this Strange *Weather*, I will not Determine: But if Comets be only (according to *Ariſtotles* Notion, which I queſtion) *hot* and *dry* Exhalations drawn up from the Earth, it would not be difficult to Judge that Severe *Colds* ſhould enſue here below: For *Extreams* in Nature, if they are not *Cauſes*, are at leaſt *Fore-Runners* of their *Contraries*: Nor have there wanted Grand *Configurations* of the *Superior Bodies*; During the time of this violent *Froſt*, As a *Trine* of the *Sun* and *Jupiter*, an *Oppoſition* of *Saturn* and *Mars*. But leaving the Diſquiſition of theſe to the *Curious*, having not Room to Inlarge here, upon them; I haſten to ſatisfy the *Common Reader* with an *Hiſtorical* Review of former Occurrences of this kind; which may check that Vulgar Cry of Ignorance, That *Never*, *O Never was known the Like*.

Livy in his fifth Book tells us of a Winter ſo hard, That the River *Tyber* was frozen over, a matter very ſtrange in ſuch a Climate as *Italy*. In the year 1234. the *Adriatick* Sea was ſo frozen, that the *Venetians* went over the *Ice* thereof with *Carts*: *Zonaras* aſſures us, that in the Reign of that Emperour *Conſtantine* (who for a Naſty Reaſon in his Chriſtning, was call'd *Copronymus*) about the year 750. the *Pontick Sea*, was ſo Congealed, That people for many miles travelled it on foot: And Horſes and Carts loaden, paſſed over the *Fretum*, or Narrow part of it; But withal he adds, that the *Summer following* was ſo exceſſive *hot and dry*, that great Rivers and moſt Fountains were wholly *dryed up*, and People and

Cattel

Cattel perisht for want of water. In the year 821. the greatest Rivers of *Europe*, as the *Rhine*, the *Danubius*, the *Elb*, and the *Sein*, were so incrusted with Ice, that for the space of above 30 days, *Carriages* freely passed along on them, as on the Land.

But to look nearer home---In the year of our Lord 1365. and 49th year of K. *Edward* the 3d, A *Frost* lasted from the midst of *September* to the Month of *April*; but though so tedious, the Cold was nothing so intense or violent as now. In the 15th year of the Reign of K. *Henry* the Eighth, after great Rains and Winds, there followed so sore a Frost, that many *dyed for cold*, and some lost *Fingers*, some *Toes*, and many their *Nails*: [*I follow the very words of Sir* R. Baker, fol. 297.] The same Author tells us, That in the seventh year of Q. *Elizabeth*, on the 21. of *December*, began *a Frost* so extream, that on *New-Years-Day* Even people passed over the Thames *on foot*, some plaid at *Foot Ball*, some *shot at Pricks*, as if it had been firm ground; yet this great Frost, the third of *January* at night, began to *Thaw*; and by the fifth day, there was no Ice to be seen, but *great Inundations* followed.

In the year 1609. [which 'tis not impossible, but some *Living* might remember, being but 74 years ago] *a Frost* began in *December*, which continued till *April* following, with such violence, that the Thames was so frozen that *Carts loaden*, were frequently driven over it: most Fowls and Birds were destroyed. In the year 1637. was another *Frost*, which rendred the *Thames* passable; so in the year 1664. immediately followed by the *Great Sickness*; And the like towards the latter end of the year 1676.

Some of the *Consequences* of these extream *Frosts*, I have mentioned, more I might, *all* are not Convenient; those that consult *Chronology*, may easily satisfy themselves; a man may soon err in assigning *Effects* to such or such particular *Causes*, or adapting *Events* to *Significators*; *Modesty* is the first Lesson in Wisdoms School. Therefore as we have been studious in *matter of Fact*, past; but sparing as to Sequels; so we shall retain the same becoming *tenderness* as to Futures; wherein we shall steer our Course rather by the Guidance of *Nature* in her usual Operations here below, than by curious Researches into remoter *influential Causes above*; though not neglecting them neither, For the *Universe is Entire, Harmonical*, and *Sympathetical*, and he that does not competently understand the right *Tone of* the whole, and the true *Key* of every part, will make but *bad Musick* wherever he lays his Clumsy Fingers.

First then I say, This Extremity of *Cold* presages many Calamities and evils to attend Mankind, and the rest of their Fellow-Creatures; for as the Innocent Inhabitants of the *Air*, or expanded *Suburbs* of Heaven,

viz. *Birds* and *Fowls*, are endangered by the Elements denying their usual Benefits and Provisions (wherein another fourth part of the Creation, viz. *Fishes*, are somewhat Concern'd) so *degraded man*, taking advantage of this *Cruel Weather*, does for *profit*, or *pleasure*, or *vanity*, destroy many thousands of them: Now this great destruction of them, is but a Fore runner of *Mortality* amongst Creatures of greater value, and even of men themselves. Would you know the reason? I told you but now, Universal Nature is *Sympathetical*.

2dly. This immoderate *Cold* locks up the *Pores* of mens Bodies, and drives the natural *Heat* more *Central*, which occasions great *Appetite* and *Drought*, whence follows much and excessive *Eating* and *Drinking* of gross, fatt, succulent Foods, and *strong* Drinks; in all that have wherewithal to procure them; which the voracious desires do at present seem able to bear and *digest*, yet really *Nature* is not able to do it, and so by degrees there are *seeds* sown and *Foundations* laid for *Diseases*. On the other hand, amongst the *Poor*, Necessity of feeding on *unfitt* and unusuall *Viands*, for their support at present, or defect of due Nourishment, must to them do as much mischief; For *want* is as *great* (tho I think now so *Common*) an Enemy to Nature, as *Superfluity*; The way to prevent these mischiefs is, for the *Rich* to observe *Sobriety* and *Temperance*, and for the Poor to use *Discretion* in their *Diet*, for a pint of *Milk* with a quarter of a pint of *Water*, thickned with one Spoonful of *Flower*, and heated just to *Boyling*, and then putting into it a few Crums of *Bread* (all which will not cost above a Penny) shall give any person as *nourishing* a Meal as the best *Surloyn of Beef* or *Capon*. I mention not this to prevent Benevolences towards the Poor, which all that are able are bound to Afford, but only to Advise them how to supply themselves when they meet not with other Accomodations, but find Rich Mens Charity more Frozen than the *Thames*.

3dly. This Excessive Frost Condenses the Air, and renders it *Sulphurous* and *Unhealthy*, especially in such Cities as *London*, where *Sea-coals* are generally used for Firing, and most People (especially *Women*) creep close to those fulsome Fires, without using themselves to proper Exercises, whereby their *Blood* stagnates, and becomes *thick* and *foul*, whence are Generated the *Scurvy*, stoppages of the *Breast*, *Coughs* and shortness of *Breath*; the ill effects whereof will more manifest themselves next *Spring* and *Summer*.

4thly. This Disharmony and Inequality of the Elements, portend a *dry hot* Summer to ensue, for all *Extremes* (as before observ'd) produce their Contraries, which will not only Encrease Distempers, but I fear some *Epidemical Disease*, and it is also a Fore-runner of *Dearth* and *Scarcity*.

city, and the latter, is the more to be apprehended, becauſe we have had ſeveral *plentiful* and Fruitful Years, and very few of us (ſcarce any) have Improved them to that End, for which they were given us by the *Lord*, and his hand maid, Nature; But moſt that abound in Plenty, have Gratified their Luſts and Paſſions, and ſuch as have not had wherewith to commit the ſame Intemperances in *Act*, have done it in their *Wills* and deſires; And ſhall not our God *viſit us* for theſe and other crying Abominations, daily exhaled from our *polluted ſtreets* and *Dwellings*? I will not take upon me to averr *a Plague* or *Scarcity* ſhall be the *next Year*, *Jehovah* the *All-Wiſe*, is the Limiter of Times and Seaſons for Extraordinary Judgments: But I may ſay, that *probably*, according to the proſpect of Natural Cauſes, ſuch Calamities ſeem not *farr off*, and 'twill concern every Man living to prepare for it;

Qui ſapit Ille animum Fortunæ præparat omni
---- Præviſumque poteſt, Arte { *Levare malum.* / *Juvare Bonum.*

A *Wiſe* Man fits his mind for every Chance,
And whilſt he doth in Vertue's Paths Advance,
Each promis'd *Good*, *Encreaſeth* by his Skill,
And kindly *Leſſens* every threatned *Ill*.

But to proceed. Great and no leſs *Juſt* are the Cries of the *Poor* in ſuch a ſharp and pinching Seaſon as this; For few of them have the Opportunity, or at leaſt the Prudence and *Fore-ſight*, to *lay up* any thing to ſupport them in a neceſſitous Times. How many thouſands of very many Trades about this populous City, and elſewhere, cannot now poſſibly follow their Callings, or get any thing whereby to ſuſtain themſelves and *Periſhing* Families with Bread? And can you, whom God has but *intruſted* with plentiful Eſtates, gorge your ſelves with *over-charged Tables* even to a *ſurfeit*, and Riot with exceſſive Bottles of *Wine*, whilſt your *Brethren* thus *languiſh and Dye* for want of Neceſſaries? Can you but think that God at ſuch a Juncture calls upon you for his *Quit-Rent* out of thoſe vaſt Revenues which you hold meerly by the *Tenure* of his free and undeſerved Gift?

Great and truely *Royal* has our gracious *Soveraigns* Bounty and Charity ſhew'd it ſelf on this occaſion, as well by beſtowing *a Conſiderable Summ* Himſelf, as Commanding the Officers of every Pariſh to Importune the Charity of all able Inhabitants.

Purſuant to this Great and Generous Example, Methinks all you that are *Loyal* Subjects, and would be thought *good Chriſtians*, ſhould be forward

forward to Contribute to the Common Neceſſities; And what if you ſhould reſolve for *one Day in a week*, (at leaſt during ſuch an hard time) to reſtrain your ſelves from large Eating and *ſet Meals*, and wholly on that day forbear *Bibbing* of *Wine* and ſtrong Liquors (I dare promiſe you, it ſhall be never the *worſe* for your *Health*, but the *better*, as alſo for your *Buſineſs*) and Imploy what you *ſo Save*, in Charitable Uſes to the Relief of the *Poor?* Such a thing *has been done* on a *worſe* occaſion within our Memory, and therefore is not Impracticable. By this only means within *Londons* Bills of Mortality might eaſily be raiſed *Twenty Thouſands pounds* a week for the *Poor*; And no Man a *Farthing* the worſe, but even in his Eſtate the better (and much more in his Health, which is more Valuable than the greateſt *Eſtate* in *Chriſtendome*) for without diſpute there are within that Circuit more than an Hundred thouſand Families whoſe *Dinners* each Day Coſt them (one with another) more than three Shillings each, I mean extravagantly, in *Fleſh*, *Fowls* or *Fiſh*, when a little Bread and Cheeſe, *Milk* or the like, might as well, (nay I am ſure would better) for once at leaſt in a Week, ſupply Nature; Now one hundred thouſand three Shillings is Fifteen thouſand pound; and then 'tis not to be doubted (ſince in this Age Generally more is ſpent in *Drink*, than *Victuals*) but that there are above one Hundred thouſand Perſons that daily laviſh away above twelve pence a Day in *Wine*, *Brandy*, *Ale*, or ſome ſtrong Liquors, which they forbearing but for one day in a week, and beſtowing as aforeſaid, thereby may be raiſed Five thouſand pound more, and ſo in the whole twenty thouſand pounds a week, which *juſtly diſtributed*, would bravely ſupply *Four-ſcore thouſand* Families, at Five ſhillings a week a peice, or afford an hundred and threeſcore thouſand Poor People *half a Crown* a peice every week. And will you ſuffer ſuch a Number of *Souls* to periſh, for want, rather than abridge your *wanton Palates* and Inſatiate *Paunches* of unneceſſary, nay pernitious Danities, one only Day in a week? Look up thou *Sottiſh Epicure* that *Denyeſt* it, and call thy ſelf *Chriſtian* hence forwards if thou *Dareſt*.

ADVERTISEMENT.

☞ There is lately publiſht, A Treatiſe very Uſeful, Intituled--*The way to Health, long Life, and Happineſs* &c. To be Sold by *Andrew Sowle* at the Crooked Billet in *Holloway-Lane* near *Shore-Ditch*.